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Front Page Edit Page Other Page

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AS A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

How JFK Learned Of Cuba Invasion Plans

John F. Kennedy knew about the planned Bay of Pigs invasion during the 1960 presidential campaign, according to two newspapermen.

The assertion appeared Monday in a *Look* magazine article by Thomas B. Ross and David Wise.

Ross is a member of the Washington bureau of The Sun-Times, and Wise is chief of the Washington bureau of the New York Herald Tribune.

The Nixon Charge

Richard M. Nixon charged in his book, "Six Crises," that Kennedy as a candidate received a Central Intelligence Agency briefing on the proposed Cuban operation.

In 1962, following publication of the book, the White House issued a denial that was supported by Allen W. Dulles, who had retired as CIA director in 1961.

The White House said that Kennedy's briefing by Dulles in 1960 had been general in nature. It said Kennedy "was not told . . . of the training



DAVID WISE THOMAS B. ROSS

of troops outside of Cuba or of any plans for 'supporting an invasion of Cuba.'

No Dispute, But . . .

Dulles described the Nixon charge as a "misunderstanding" and said the briefings "did not cover our own government's plans or programs for action, overt or covert."

Ross and Wise do not dispute the White House version of the CIA briefings. But they say Kennedy had knowledge of the invasion plans from other sources.

According to the *Look* article:

"Exactly what was said during Dulles's briefings of Ken-

nedy . . . will never be known for certain, since the meeting was top secret and unrecorded.

"But there is some evidence that Kennedy did not want to be briefed on operational matters—such as the Cuban invasion — because this might have limited his freedom of action.

'Missed The Point'

"In any event, Nixon's dispute with Kennedy and Dulles . . . missed the point.

"Regardless of the content of the CIA briefings, the Kennedy camp had learned informally from other sources that an exile invasion was hatching."

Ross and Wise wrote that Nixon, the Republican presidential candidate, "was hoping for the invasion before Nov. 8" on the theory he would win the election easily "if the Eisenhower administration destroyed Fidel Castro in the closing days of the presidential campaign."

And this, according to the newspapermen, "was exactly what the Kennedy strategists hoped would not happen."

The abortive invasion occurred in April, 1961.

Peace Corps And CIA

The magazine article was adapted from a Ross-Wise book, "The Invisible Government," which will be published in June by Random House.

It includes a report that Kennedy as President personally ordered the CIA to avoid involvement with the Peace Corps headed by R. Sargent Shriver Jr. Wrote Ross and Wise:

"When Sargent Shriver was organizing the Peace Corps, he realized that the new agency, with its thousands of young volunteers dispersed over the globe, could well look like an all-but-irresistible 'cover' to the CIA.

"He was also aware that even one 'spy' incident involving a volunteer might destroy the corps, and privately proclaimed his determination to do everything he could to divorce it from even the faintest smell of intelligence work.

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